

USDA Farm Service Agency – Conservation Programs Update

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1. **Notice CRP-867 and Notice CRP-868 were issued on May 17, 2019 and allowed for certain Continuous CRP Practices to be re-enrolled and enrolled and for CREP to be re-enrolled and enrolled under Signup 52.**

a) **Notice CRP-867 re-opened certain practices under Continuous CRP as follows:**

Practice	Title
CP8A	Grass Waterways, Non-easement
CP9	Shallow Water Area for Wildlife
CP15A	Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips)
CP21	Filter Strips
CP21B	Denitrifying Bioreactor on Filter Strips
CP21S	Saturated Filter Strips
CP22	Riparian Buffer
CP22B	Denitrifying Bioreactor on Riparian Buffers
CP22S	Saturated Riparian Buffer
CP23	Wetland Restoration on Floodplain
CP23A	Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain
CP27	Farmable Wetlands Pilot Wetland
CP28	Farmable Wetland Pilot Buffer
CP30	Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer
CP37	Duck Nesting Habitat
CP39	FWP Constructed Wetland
CP40	FWP Aquaculture Wetland Restoration
CP41	FWP Flooded Prairie Wetland

- i. Soil Rental Rates (SRR) Any Continuous CRP contracts enrolled or re-enrolled for FY2020 will be paid a Soil Rental rate that is 90% of what was in effect as of 9/28/2018
 - ii. Incentives are not authorized, including SIP, PIP and any additional percentage paid as a rental rate incentive are not authorized. Producers must understand that there are no incentive rates offered under Continuous CRP Signup SU52.
 - iii. Mid-Contract Management Activities are required per handbook 2-CRP, Par. 428. However, cost share payments are not authorized for Management Activities. Management Activities must be shown in the approved Conservation Plan, and producers must understand that there will be no cost share payments made to them for the required management to their CRP contracts.
 - iv. Sign-up Period For offers to re-enroll land, including offers that include both re-enrolled and new land, producers may submit offers for non-CREP continuous signup 52 beginning June 3, 2019, through August 23, 2019.
- b) **Notice CRP-868 re-opened CREP for existing CREP Agreements**, which includes the current CREP program we have in Oregon in partnerships with the State of Oregon, and in Washington County, with Clean Water Services and the eCREP program that is administered in that county in the Tualatin Watershed.

- i. The terms of our CREP Agreement with the State of Oregon that were in place as of 9/28/2018, will apply to offers for enrollment under SU52 CREP. This includes the ability to offer and pay producers the following incentives: PIP, SIP and any applicable SRR incentives. It also includes CIB in Oregon.
 - ii. The notice implies changes moving forward for subsequent CREP signups, that will be implemented once the CRP regulations under the 2018 Agricultural Improvement Act are published.
 - iii. Soil Rental Rates – are the NASS rates that were in effect as of 9/28/2018.
 - iv. Cost share Rates – will be the same rates in place for your counties as of 9/28/2018. Changes to your existing cost share rates are not currently authorized.
 - v. Cost Share for Mid-Contract Management Activities - Management Activities are required per handbook 2-CRP, Par. 428. However, cost share payments are not authorized for Management Activities. Management Activities must be shown in the approved Conservation Plan, and producers must understand that there will be no cost share payments made to them for the required management to their CREP contracts.
- c) **The deadlines provided in Notices 867 and 868 for re-enrolling contracts are as follows:**

Date	Action
August 23	Deadline for producers to submit signed offers for re-enrolled land and for FSA to deliver offers to NRCS. County Office deadline to enter the status in COLS as "Submit for Plan".
September 13	Deadline for NRCS to complete all conservation plans for re-enrolled land and return to FSA.
September 30	Deadline for COC or CED to approve CRP-1 for re-enrolled land and load CRP-1 approval in COLS. Note: There is no authority to approve a CRP-1 after September 30 for re-enrolled land.

- d) There is no authority to approve a Continuous or CREP re-enrollment after August 23, 2019.
- e) For offers to enroll new land (land not currently enrolled in CRP), producers may submit offers for non-CREP continuous signup 52 beginning June 3, 2019, until otherwise notified by DAFP; and for offers to enroll new land (land not currently enrolled in CRP), producers may submit offers for signup 52 enrollment in CRP through approved CREP Agreements beginning June 3, 2019 until otherwise notified by DAFP.

2. CRP/CREP Expirations as of 09/30/2019

- A. The following list shows all Oregon's FY19 Expiring **CREP** contracts by County, all are potentially eligible for re-enrollment:

FY	Admin State	Admin County	Number of Contracts Expiring/Expired	Total Number of Farms	Total Expiring/Expired Acres
2019	Oregon	Baker	3	3	254.44
2019	Oregon	Benton	3	2	72.20
2019	Oregon	Clackamas	2	2	7.90
2019	Oregon	Coos	5	5	29.00
2019	Oregon	Curry	2	2	36.50
2019	Oregon	Douglas	7	7	57.50
2019	Oregon	Gilliam	3	3	98.30
2019	Oregon	Grant	6	3	320.04
2019	Oregon	Jefferson	2	2	55.50
2019	Oregon	Josephine	1	1	1.50
2019	Oregon	Klamath	7	3	107.30
2019	Oregon	Lane	4	4	37.10
2019	Oregon	Linn	2	2	14.50
2019	Oregon	Marion	1	1	17.70
2019	Oregon	Morrow	2	2	8.90
2019	Oregon	Sherman	10	11	460.43
2019	Oregon	Umatilla	12	9	134.23
2019	Oregon	Union	2	2	68.70
2019	Oregon	Wallowa	2	2	10.90
2019	Oregon	Wasco	31	21	1,378.74
2019	Oregon	Washington	2	1	5.60
2019	Oregon	Wheeler	4	3	118.40
2019	Oregon	Yamhill	2	2	10.80
Grand Total			121	93	3,304.18

- B. This next list shows all the Expiring **Continuous CRP** contracts as of 9/30/2019. Please note, one of the practices listed is not eligible to re-enroll, per our recent guidance found in Notice CRP-867. The practice that cannot re-enroll is CP-29. Practice CP-29 is an eligible CREP practice in Oregon, so the 1,092.54 acres expiring under Continuous CRP, if eligible, will likely be re-enrolled in CREP.

FY	Admin State	Admin County	Practice Code	Total Expiring/Expired Acres
2019	Oregon	Gilliam	CP22	74.90
2019	Oregon	Gilliam	CP29	61.20
2019	Oregon	Harney	CP22	12.00
2019	Oregon	Lane	CP22	5.50
2019	Oregon	Malheur	CP22	25.10
2019	Oregon	Morrow	CP21	94.00
2019	Oregon	Morrow	CP22	109.10
2019	Oregon	Sherman	CP22	87.00
2019	Oregon	Sherman	CP29	947.54
2019	Oregon	Umatilla	CP21	62.59
2019	Oregon	Umatilla	CP8A	9.71
2019	Oregon	Wallowa	CP22	2.10
2019	Oregon	Wallowa	CP29	66.30
2019	Oregon	Wheeler	CP29	17.50
Grand Total				1,574.54

- C. Finally, the following list shows all Expiring **General CRP** contracts. While a small percentage of these acres might be eligible to be re-enrolled under Continuous CRP, or CREP, it is unlikely that it would amount to many acres given the practices under general signups are quite different than those found in Continuous CRP or CREP. Also, since the National Office has announced a General signup for December 2019, I would anticipate most of the following contracts being deferred by producers to see if they will be able to get into any of the general practices that will be offered in December with the general signup.

FY	Admin State	Admin County	Practice Code	Total Expiring/Expired Acres
2019	Oregon	Gilliam	CP2	105.21
2019	Oregon	Morrow	CP1	971.17
2019	Oregon	Morrow	CP10	444.71
2019	Oregon	Polk	CP10	12.10
2019	Oregon	Polk	CP4D	1.00
2019	Oregon	Sherman	CP1	206.28
2019	Oregon	Sherman	CP10	200.74
2019	Oregon	Sherman	CP12	5.00
2019	Oregon	Sherman	CP2	1,076.77
2019	Oregon	Umatilla	CP1	1,935.82
2019	Oregon	Umatilla	CP10	131.20
2019	Oregon	Umatilla	CP3	112.41
2019	Oregon	Umatilla	CP4D	1,559.71
2019	Oregon	Union	CP3	160.40
2019	Oregon	Wallowa	CP1	379.36
2019	Oregon	Wallowa	CP4D	20.78
2019	Oregon	Wasco	CP3	317.10
Grand Total				7,639.74

- D. The unknowns right now of course are how many new Continuous CRP or CREP applications will be received this summer. The priority for our County FSA offices will be in processing any eligible re-enrollments, as we have a defined window to do that, from June 3 through August 23. New enrollments are 'open ended', or until the Deputy Administrator of Farm Programs (DAFP) determines to stop signup 52 for Continuous CRP and CREP.
- E. We have been working with NRCS and are messaging the need for our offices to submit the required materials to NRCS no later than on a weekly basis, and to make appointments with producers so that there isn't a tremendous amount of workload put on NRCS all at once at the August 23rd deadline.

3. Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) Update:

- A. The following Counties are in the middle of, or preparing to announce 60-day signup periods for EFRP:
- i. **Wasco – 2018 Basin Wildfires**
 - ii. **Douglas – 2018 drought**

- iii. **Jackson/Josephine – 2017 and 2018 Wildfires**
- iv. **Douglas – 2019 Severe Snow Storm**

B. Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) has been an excellent partner through all these signups, through pro-actively meeting with the FSA State Office and coordinating with the County Offices by providing informational meetings to them, as well as providing Outreach to the Non-Industrial Private Forest Owners.

4. Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) Update:

- A. Notice ECP-79 was issued on May 24, 2019 and incorporated some changes that were written into the 2018 Farm Bill, as follows:
 - i. Maximum ECP Payment Limitation increased from \$200,000 to \$500,000 per person or legal entity, per natural disaster event. This is effective for all disaster events that occurred on, or after December 20, 2018.
 - ii. Maximum C/S Level allows up to 75% of eligible cost to be authorized, and up to 90% to be authorized for limited resource producers. The 2018 Farm Bill authorizes Social Disadvantaged Farmers (SDA), not including gender or beginning farmers or ranchers, to also receive up to 90% of total allowable costs (the SDA definition used under ECP was provided in the 1990 Farm Bill and gender is not a covered group under that definition).
- B. With the scope of ECP requests that deal with rehabilitation to fences and watering facilities, the need for technical assistance from our partners is great and making eligibility determinations and in verifying practice completion and that practices were completed per NRCS specifications.

